

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for scanning an image in an image forming apparatus having an image input sensor for sensing an input image and a cover, the method comprising:  
determining whether a brightness of light sensed by the image input sensor is within a predetermined brightness range and outputting a result thereof; and  
determining whether to enable scanning the image in the image forming apparatus based upon the result.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether the brightness of light sensed by the image input sensor is within the predetermined brightness range, further comprises:

designating a plurality of positions based upon a plurality of sensors at predetermined intervals;

sensing the brightness of light at each position; and

determining whether a number of the plurality of positions wherein the brightness of light is within a predetermined brightness range is greater than a predetermined number of positions.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the determining whether the number of the plurality of positions wherein the brightness of light is within the predetermined brightness range is greater than the predetermined number of positions, further comprises:

determining whether image scanning is required when the number of the plurality of positions wherein the brightness of light is within the predetermined brightness range is not greater than a predetermined number of positions and scanning the input image in an image scanning unit; and

the image forming apparatus remaining in an initialization state when the number of the plurality of positions wherein the brightness of light within the predetermined brightness range is greater than the predetermined number of positions.

4. An apparatus for scanning an image in an image forming apparatus having an image input sensor sensing an input image and a cover, the apparatus comprising:

a brightness check controlling unit which determines whether a brightness of light sensed in the image input sensor is within a predetermined brightness range and outputs a result in the form of a control signal; and

an image scanning unit which selectively scans an image based upon the control signal.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the brightness check controlling unit comprises:

a position designation part which designates a plurality of positions in the image input sensor in which light is sensed, and outputs a result;

a brightness comparison part which determines whether the brightness of light sensed in the plurality of positions is within the predetermined brightness range, and outputs a result; and

a brightness decision part which determines whether a number of the plurality of positions in the image input sensor wherein the brightness of light is within the predetermined brightness range is greater than a predetermined number of positions, in response to the result from the brightness comparison part.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a scanning requirement sensing unit which senses whether image scanning is required by a user, and outputs a result to the image scanning unit.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein when the cover is closed, the image input sensor senses a "white" brightness through a light reflected from a white sheet provided on a bottom surface of the cover.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein when the cover is open, a light is not reflected from a white sheet provided on a bottom surface of the cover, and the image input sensor senses a gray, black or other nonwhite color light.

9. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the brightness check controlling unit receives the brightness of light sensed in the image input sensor through an input terminal;

determines whether the brightness of light received is within the predetermined brightness range; and

outputs the result to the image scanning unit.

10. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the position designation part designates the positions while maintaining the same distance at predetermined intervals.

11. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the brightness comparison part receives the brightness of light sensed in the image input sensor through an input terminal;

extracts the brightness of light sensed in the plurality of positions of the image input sensor received from the position designation part;

determines whether the brightness of light extracted is within the predetermined brightness range; and

outputs the result to the brightness decision part.